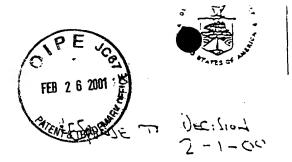
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### **OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of Mats Leijon, et al

Application No. 09/147,325

Filed: February 17, 1999

Attorney Docket No. 9847-0001-

6X

: RESPONSE TO PETITION UNDER : 37 CFR 1.182 SEEKING SPECIAL

: TREATMENT RELATING TO AN : ELECTRONIC SEARCH TOOL, AND

: DECISION ON PETITION UNDER

: 37 CFR 1.183 SEEKING WAIVER : OF REQUIREMENTS UNDER 37 CFR

: 1.98

This is a response to a September 29, 1999 Petition Under 37 CFR 1.182, requesting ratiof from the current requirements for Information Disclosure Statements under 37 CFR 1.98 in view of the need to file multiple applications relating to different aspects of a particular invention. The petition will be treated as two separate petitions: a first petition under 37 CFR 1.182, relating to submission of an electronic search tool and the need to protect proprietary information therein, and a second petition under 37 CFR 1.183, requesting relief from the § 1.98 provision which requires filing paper copies of references being cited in each of many related applications.

A Decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.182 re the electronic search tool will be issued in due course.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.183 re the submission of 3 paper copies of IDS citations in a holding application is Granted to the extent set forth below.  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ 

The Decision is set forth in five parts:

- Part I. Background

- Part If. Petition Under 37 CFR 1.182 - Electronic 7
Search Tool

- Part III. Petition Under 37 CFR 1.183 - Paper dogge



OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND.

- Part IV. Summary
- Part V. Further Correspondence

#### Part 1. Background

The instant national stage application filed under 35 U.S.C. 371 currently contains claims 77-153 with three independent claims. The instant application is one of about 200 U.S. applications (either filed or to be filed) with each U.S. application having as many as 40 corresponding foreign applications (either filed or to be filed), the applications relating to different aspects of the invention. An Information Disclosure Citation List has been submitted that lists 259 U.S. patents, 369 foreign patent documents, and 43 other references for a total of 671 citations. Additionally, a list of related cases has been supplied containing 31 U.S. applications and 52 PCT applications. Paper copies have not been supplied in the related applications of any of the citations or the identified related cases.

37 CFR 1.56(b)(l) requires disclosure to the Office of information that "establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim..." Such disclosure can be made by an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) in the manner prescribed by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 37 CFR 1.56(a).

Petitioner asks "[w]hether the information cited in the manner proposed in [petition] Section 3.1.1 ... is a disclosure that is sufficient to meet the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.56." To the extent that this question refers to the content of the disclosure and the particulars of the subject applications, the Office will not answer the question. It is Office practice not to attempt to define how an individual "ensures" compliance with the rule in a particular application. See, e.g., MPEP 2004. Because determinations on this issue require an evaluation of the intent of the party involved, the Office declines to investigate the question. See MPEP 2010. To the extent that Petitioner's question concerns the form in which the disclosure is provided, rule 56 permits a disclosure in a combination of paper and electronic formats.

Petitioner, in addition to meeting the duty set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 to disclose material information, also wishes to disclose to the Office information that may not meet the definition of

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materiality as set forth in the rule<sup>1</sup>. Information identified by U.S. or foreign examiners in any of the related U.S. and foreign applications would be cited in each of the related U.S. applications.<sup>2</sup> In addition, Petitioner seeks to submit other information in each of the related U.S. applications, such as all the co-pending U.S. applications that relate to the invention (useful for determining possible double patenting rejections), and foreign search reports. Petition, page 4.

Rather than be required to submit, via a paper copy, each piece of information in each application each time the information is obtained, Petitioner seeks to have:

- (1)(a) one application (the instant application) identified as a "holding" application which would contain a complete set of paper copies of references; the paper copies to be submitted in only the "holding" application;
- (b) the other related pending U.S. applications, hereafter referred to as the bulk filing applications, will not contain the paper set of reference copies but will contain other information, e.g., a copy of the decision on petition permitting such procedure and a copy of the Form 1449 (or equivalent); and
- (2) an "electronic search tool" containing different types of information.

The information supplied via the paper copies would be updated monthly, rather than as received from U.S. and foreign examiners, and cancellation of this arrangement would be an option for both

Reference to MPEP 2001.05, Petition, page 3.

Petition, page 3. The present petition requesting relief does not set forth any commitment nor intent by applicant to screen such information for relevancy to each of the U.S. applications in which the information is being cited.

The original of which would be in the instant holding application.

<sup>\*</sup>See, Petition under 37 CFR 1.182, infra.

See, Petition under 37 CFR 1.183, infra.

Petitioner and the Office upon notice. These, and other more specific conditions, are discussed in further detail in regard to the § 1.182 petition, below.

Petitioner has essentially requested relief in two areas: (1) treatment of information in an electronic search tool, to be submitted independent of any particular application, as in compliance with IDS submission requirements for all bulk filing applications, and (2) the ability to provide the paper copies of each reference in an IDS submission in only one of the bulk filing applications (the instant holding application) as well as two additional sets of copies rather than as is normally required in each application for which the reference (IDS citation) is to be considered. These two areas of relief are independent of each other and drawn toward different regulations. Accordingly, the petition has been treated as two petitions, and the present decision addresses the two areas of requested relief separately. While it is undeniable that relief in both areas would be of benefit to Petitioner, the granting of relief in one area does not, in fact, require the granting of relief in the other. Moreover, in view of the need to further consider the requested relief related to the electronic search tool, deciding the requested relief issues separately permits at this time a partial grant of the original petition.

## Part II. Petition under 37 CFR 1.182- Electronic Search Tool

The issues involving the electronic search tool are more extensive than those relating to the requirement for paper copies in each bulk filing application and more time is needed to fully consider and address them. Accordingly, the petition under § 1.182 shall not be decided at this time and is not treated in the instant decision on the § 1.183 petition although it will continue to be considered, with a decision rendered in due course.

It is recognized that petitioner believes the issues presented by the petition may not be decided independent of one another as both the paper copy issue and the electronic search tool issue represent the most complete solution to duty of disclosure issues under 37 CFR 1.56, Petition, fn. 5.

## Part III. Petition Under 37 CFR 1.183 - Paper Copies

The submitted petition fee of \$130 will be treated as the § 1.183 petition fee.

37 CFR 1.98 requires that any information disclosure statement provide a copy of all patents, publications or other information submitted under 37 CFR 1.97 for consideration by the Office. 37 CFR 1.97 notes that information disclosure statements are considered in regard to the application in which they are filed. See also MPEP 609, page 600-102, right-hand column, and page 600-103, left-hand column.

Paper copies: Petitioner notes that the instant application is one of 200 bulk filing applications that will be or have been filed in regard to a particular technology. Accordingly, Petitioner requests that individual paper copies of each reference, brought to the attention of the Office in regard to any one individual application, not be required to be submitted in each such application. Rather, it is requested that three complete sets of paper copies be permitted to be filed: one set for the instant application which will be designated as a holding application; one set to be used to establish new subclasses for the technology; and one set to be used as a reference set should either or both of the other two sets become corrupted (Petition, pages 6 and 7).

Once past the initial IDS submission, it is proposed that applicant would update the IDS submissions once a month, rather than every time a new reference is found, although the time frames required by § 1.97 would have to be complied with, which may mean that submissions may occur more frequently than once a month.

Form 1449: In addition to submission of the three sets of paper copies in the instant "holding" application, the petition proposes that each of the bulk filling applications would receive a Form 1449 listing the reference citations (Petition, page 7) and the Form 1449 (in each of the bulk filling applications) would be updated, pursuant to the time requirements of § 1.97, each time the three sets of paper copies are updated. The petition is

It would presumably up to the Technology Center to . determine how best to store the reference set and how if is to be accessed.

silent as to whether other types of information that may be submitted in the holding application IDS, e.g., concise explanations of foreign language documents under § 1.98(a)(3), would also be supplied in all the bulk filing applications.

Suspension of action: In view of the use of the instant application as a holding application (to contain a complete set of paper copies of reference citations, which can be consulted by the examiner when examining any of the other bulk filing applications that have a Form 1449 but not the paper copies), the petition states that upon allowance of the instant holding application the right is reserved to file a petition to suspend action in the instant application so that the application can remain as the holding application (Petition, page 7). Alternatively, upon agreement of the Assignee and a Director of the Technology Center involved, an alternate application may be designated as the holding application.

New subclasses: The petition envisions an affirmative duty on the Technology Center to establish new subclasses that will include each of the references submitted during the course of prosecution of the bulk filing applications. In addition, the Office is to agree that "[e]xaminers will be required to search these newly created subclasses" (from submissions by the Assignee and later by others) "as part of the routine patent prosecution process." Petition, page 8.

Termination: Petitioner seeks a right of termination, which is to be a mutual option. Termination is to be by written notice, to the attorney of record if the Office terminates and the filing of a termination request and by contacting the Director of TC 2800 if applicant terminates. Conventional IDS procedures would begin three months after notice of termination.

The new subclasses will later be supplemented by references supplied by others who may file applications related to the same technology.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Although termination is discussed under a section related to licensing of the electronic search tool and the petition generally (Petition, pages 10 and 11), it is presumed that Petitioner intends to have the termination provision apply to the waiver of paper copies if that alone is granted.

37 CFR 1.183 provides relief for extraordinary situations, when justice requires suspension of any requirement of the regulations which is not a requirement of the statutes. The instant petition urges that not only would applicant be spared the necessity of submitting duplicative paper copies of references in 200 applications, but also the Office would benefit from not having to handle and store the duplicative sets of copies. While there may be some negative effects from the Office's point of view in terms of making the copies available to different examiners handling the various applications, 10 on balance, there is seen to be sufficient benefit to justify waiver in this instance.

Accordingly, the petition under 37 CFR 1.183 is granted to the extent indicated and under the terms and conditions as are set forth below. 11

The waiver being granted in this instance is not intended to set a general precedent where there is more than one application containing related subject matter. The Office, however, intends to use the instant grant to study whether the opportunity for waiver can be extended to other applicants in similar circumstances, and whether a more general program can be announced. One factor that will be considered is the extent to which relevant information (that may not be necessarily required by § 1.56(b) but which would nonetheless be useful to the examiner, e.g., § 1.56(a)(l) and (2)), is submitted rather than huge dumps of nonrelevant or marginally relevant information.

It is noted that while the petition only refers to the submission of citations that are made by both U.S. and foreign examiners, the term "include" is used (Petition, page 2) which is open ended. The Petition states that it is the intention to submit a copy of every reference identified both by U.S. examiners in the 200 U.S. applications and by foreign examiners in as many as 40 corresponding foreign applications for each U.S., application (Petition, page 3). It has not been stated whether the current 671 reference citations currently of record represent only those citations made by U.S. and foreign examiners only those citations made by U.S. and foreign examiners only those citations made by U.S. and foreign examiners only those citations made by U.S. and foreign examiners only those citations made by U.S. and foreign examiners only those citations made by U.S. and foreign examiners.

related, the specific claims of the applications may be related, the specific claims of the applications may require different classifications of the applications and the quantity of applications would dictate the need for more than one examiner to timely examine the applications.

The § 1.98(a)(2) requirement for (the submission of) a copy of each IDS citation in a bulk filing application will be waived in the bulk filing application provided that the following 8 conditions are complied with:

- Three paper copies of each IDS citation are or have been submitted to the Office;
- The (bulk filing) application for which waiver of \$1.98(a)(2) is desired refers to the instant holding application, such as by a claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. 120, or as containing related technology;
- 3) The information is or has also been cited in the holding application;

Note: Applicant is not required to cite in each bulk filing application every item of information that is cited in the instant holding application. Items should be cited in each bulk filing application on the basis of relevancy and materiality to the particular claims in the bulk filing application and what each piece of information teaches.

A waiver is not granted (for the requirement to supply a paper copy of an IDS citation in another bulk filing application) where the citation is not, or has not been, made in the instant holding application.

- 4) A copy of this Decision is filed in the bulk filing application;
- Explanatory information related to a particular citation, such as the concise explanation of a foreign language reference under § 1.98(a)(2), once submitted in the holding application must be supplied in each bulk filing application where the citation is made.
- The Office accepts and specifically reserves the right to terminate the waiver grant in regard to § 1.98(a)(2) without provision of reasons. In such event, a two month period will be given where paper copies would grant period will be given where paper copies would grant period will be given where paper copies would grant period will be given where paper copies would grant period will be given where paper copies would grant period will be given where paper copies would grant period with the period will be given where paper copies would grant period with the period will be given where paper copies would grant period with the period will be given where paper copies would grant period with the period will be given where paper copies would grant period with the period will be given where paper copies would grant period with the period will be given where paper copies would grant period with the period will be given where paper copies would grant period with the period will be given where paper copies would grant period will be given where paper copies would grant period will be given where paper copies would grant period will be given where paper copies were period will be given where period will be given where paper copies would grant period will be given where the grant period will be given where period will be given where period will be given where grant g

preexamination search or third party citations. See also ? Petition, page 19.

have to be supplied in all applications where new citations are made. Should a termination of the waiver be desired by the Office, the Office will provide written notice to the correspondence address of record. Termination by applicant may be by returning to compliance with § 1.98(a)(2) without formal notice thereof and no transition/continuing period after termination is required.

- The grant of the § 1.183 petition re § 1.98(a)(2) does 7) not indicate that the Office would favorably treat a petition to suspend action under § 1.103(a) should the instant application be allowed. Issuance of the instant application as a patent is not seen to terminate its usefulness either: (1) as a holding application for references by examiners working on other related applications, 12 or (2) as a vehicle for the storage of references to be cited even after the patent issues (35 U.S.C. 301, 37 CFR 1.501, and MPEP 2202). Should the instant application become abandoned, the issue of continued introduction of paper copies of new citations could be taken up at that time. The Office, however, may consider suspending or taking other appropriate action in the instant holding application in the event the holding application is allowed, if it is in the best interest of the Office to do so.
  - The Office has established a series of Official Digests in Class 174 based on the technology represented by the instant invention (a classification schedule thereof is attached). As is the case will all Digests, their usefulness will be continually evaluated. The Office will place the holding application's references in the Digests as they are determined to require such placement and as new ones are brought to the attention of the Office either by Petitioner or a third party. A search of the Digests themselves or what they contain (such as the holding application or reference copy sets), either in paper copy or electronic form, will be

The patent file can be kept in the Technology Center for easy reference, or rather than rely upon the patent, either the reference set of paper copies could be utilized, or the Diffice may decide to rely on the Digests being created.

conducted when mandatory based on the classification of the claims, or when deemed advisable - on a case by case basis.

#### Part IV. Summary

A Decision on the Petition under 37 CFR 1.182, drawn toward submission of the electronic search tool, will be acted upon in due course when all outstanding issues are resolved.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.183 agreeing to supply three copies of each IDS citation in a holding application and requesting waiver of the paper copy requirement for submission in every related application under § 1.98(a)(2) is granted, however, the following is not agreed to:

- the grant of a future petition under 37 CFR 1.103 for suspension from publication of the holding application should it be allowed,

the required search of subclasses from one of the three sets of paper copies and placement of one of the other sets of paper copies therein, and

any termination provision more than two months (rather than the three months that the petition sets forth) from notice of termination.

#### Part V. Further Correspondence

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed to Hiram H. Bernstein, Senior Legal Advisor, Special Program Law Office, as follows:

By mail: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Box DAC

Washington, D.C. 20231

Bv FAX: (703) 308-6916

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Attn: Special Program Law Office

By hand: Special Program Law Office

Crystal Plaza Four, Suite 3C23

2201 South Clark Place Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to Mr. Bernstein at (703) 305-9285.

The instant application will be retained by this Office: for a period of TWO MONTHS to await any response to the instant Decision, and for the purpose of continuing review of the § 1.182 perition re the electronic search tool.

Robert

Director

Special Program Law Office

Office of the Deputy Assistant Commissioner

for Patent Policy and Projects

Attachment: List of Digests 13-33

HIGH VOLTAGE CABLE (E.G., ABOVE 10KV, CORONA PREVENTION, ETC.) Digest 13 . Having a particular cable application (e.g., winding, etc.) Digest 14 .. In a power generation system (e.g., prime-mover dynamo, generator system, etc.) Digest 15 .. In a motive power system (e.g., electric motor control system, etc.) Digest 16 .. In an electric power conversion, regulation, or protection system Digest 17 .. In a power distribution network Digest 18 .. In a dynamo-electric machine Digest 19 ... Stator Digest 20 ... Rotor Digest 21 ... Winding, per se Digest 22 .. In a circuit breaker, relay, or switch Digest 23 .. In an inductive device (e.g., reactor, electromagnet, etc.) Digest 24 ... Transformer Digest 25 Digest 26 . Having a plural-layer insulation system .. Including a semiconductive layer Digest 27 Digest 28 ... Plural semiconductive layers Digest 29 . Having a semiconductive layer Digest 30 . Having insulation with a particular dimension or geometry Digest 31 . Having a shield or metallic layer . Having means for cooling Digest 32 Digest 33 . Method of cable manufacture, assembly, repair, or splicing

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114111712	1	US1304451	5/20/19	L. H. Bumham				
		US1418856	6/2/22	Robert B. Williamson		<u> </u>		
		US1481585	1/22/24	James Robert Beard				
	_	US1728915	9/24/29	E. P. Blankenship et al		1		
		US1742985	1/7/30	L. H. Burnham		<u> </u>		
		US1747507	2/18/30	Robert B. George				
	7	US1756672	4/29/30	John M. Barr				
	8	US1762775	6/10/30	Albert G. Ganz				
	9	US1781308	11/11/30	Mauritz Vos				
	10	US1861182	5/31/32	F. Hendey et al				
	11	US1974406	9/25/34	Vincent G. Apple et al				
	12	US2006170	6/25/35	Gustof A. Juhlin			·	
	13	US2206856	7/2/40	W. E. Shearer				
	14	US2217430	10/8/40	R. A. Baudry				
		US2241832	5/13/41	H.W. Wahlquist				
	15	US2251291	8/5/41	L. O. Reichelt				
		US2256897	9/23/41	W. F. Davidson et al				
	17	US2295415	9/8/42	G.R. Monroe				
	18	US2415652	2/11/47	R. B. Norton				
	19	US2424443	7/22/47	B. C. Evans				
	20	US2436306	2/17/48	J. S. Johnson				
	21	US2446999	8/17/48	G. Camilli				
	22	US2459322	1/18/49	G. T. Johnston				
	23		2/22/49	H. W. Lord				
	24	US2462651 US2498238	2/21/50	L. J. Berberich et al				
	25		110/25/55	D. J. Monroe				
	26	US2721905 US2780771	2/5//57	B. Lee				
	27		8/5/58	H. H. McAdam				
	28	US2846599 US2885581	5/5/59	P. T. Pileggi				
	29	US2943242	6/28/60	E. Schaschl et al				
	30	US2947957	8/2/60	J. C. Spindler				
	31	US2959699	11/8/60	J. W. Smith et al		1		
	32	US2962679	11/29/60					
	33	US2975309	3/14/61	M. Seidner				
	34	US3098893	7/23/63	R. A. Pringle et al				
	35	US3130335	4/21/64	L. J. Rejda				
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	45 US3435262	2/25/69	R. B. Bennett et al	
			R. B. White	
		5/13/69	E.S. Yates	
		5/27/69	C. Ronnevig	
		12/16/69	H. Wald	
	50 U\$3484690	2/2/71	W. Moeller	
	51 US35607.77	7/13/71	A. C. Williamson	
	52 US3593123	12/28/71	H. Salahshourian	
	53 US3631519	2/22/72	H. Salahshourian	
	54 US3644662	3/21/72	P. H. Leffmann	
	55 US3651402	6/13/72	A. A. Andersson et al	
	56 US3670192	7/4/72	H. G. Lenz	
	57 US3675056	8/15/72	M. Miyauchi et al	
	58 US3684821	2/13/73	G. E. Lusk et al	
	59 US3716652		H. W. Angelery et al	
	60 US3716719		P. B. Goetz et al	
	61 US3727085		B. Turley	
	62 US3740600		A. Myles set al	
	63 US3746954		G. Lusk et al	
	64 US3758699		R. Amasino et al	
	65 US3778891		L. Meyer	
	66 US3781739		W. McLyman	
	67 US3792399		J. Corman et al	
	68 US3801843		H. Sugawara et al	
			B. Wolfe	
	70 US3881647		F. Marten	
			H. Britsch	
			E. Forsyth et al	1.
			A. Madsen	
	74 US393277 75 US393279		J. Oswald	
	76 US394339		J. Keuper et al	
	76 US394727		K. Youtsey	
	77 US394727		H. Higuchi et al	
	79 US396838		D. Lambrecht et al	
	80 US397154		W. Shanahan	
	81 US39743		H. Fuchs	
	82 US399578		R. Arick et al	·
	83 US40016		P. Lonseth et al	
	84 US40084		R. Rhudy et al	
	85 US40313		L. Jachimowicz	
	86 JUS40397		Z. Iwata	
	87 US40414		G. Enoksen	
	88 JUS40471		R. Steigerwald	
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	95 US4099		J. Liptak	

Examiner

Date Considered

<sup>\*</sup>Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP0 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<b>ALTERNATE</b>	FORM	PTO-1	449
(Corrected List			

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·	96 IL	JS 193075	<b>743</b> 5/78	E. Adam			
<u></u>	96 L	JS41066692 6	2001 18 78	J. Trautner et al			
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	99	154100098	\$8/22/78	M. Olsson et al			
	100	ISA121 WAT	22/78 10/17/78 11/9/79	H. Platzer			
	100	JS4134036	11/9/79	G. Curtiss			
		JS4134055	11/9/79	M. Akamatsu			
		US4134146	1/9/79	E. Stetson			
		US4149101	4/10/79	A. Lesokhin et al			
		US4152615	5/1/79	R. Calfo et al			
		US4160193	7/3/79	A. Richmond			
		US4164672	8/14/79	C. Flick			
		US4164772	8/14/79	N. Hingorani			
		US4177397	112/4/79	John Lill			
		US4177418	12/4/79	K. Brueckner et al			
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		US4200817	4/29/80	T. Bratoljic			·
	112	US4200817 US4200818	4/29/80	C. Ruffing et al			
	113	US4206434	6/3/80	A. Hase			
	114		6/10/80	G. Beretta el al			
	115	US4207427	6/10/80	C. Neumeyer et al			
	116	US4207482	6/17/80	A. Mulach et al			
	117	US4208597	10/21/80	W. Koloczek et al			
	118	US4229721		G. Khutoretsky et al			
	119	US4238339		A. Vinokurov et al			
	120	US4239999		H. Aotsu et al			
	121	US4245182		H-G Raschbichler et al			
	122	US4246694		W. Mischler et al			
	123	US4255684		M. Starcevic			
	124	US4258280		C. Berner			
	125	US4262209		S. Higuchi et al			
	126	US4274027		T. Keim et al	İ		
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	2	BE565063	2/23/57	Belgium		· <u>·</u>
	3	CH391071	4/30/65	Switzerland		
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	1 7	DD137164	8/15/79	Germany DDR		
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	1 30	DE3028777	3/26/81	Germany	FEB 2	<del>2001</del>
	1 31	DE3305225	8/16/84	Germany	FLD &	2001
	32	DE3309051	9/20/84	Germany	OFFICE OF P	ETITIONS
	33	DE336418	6/23/20	Germany	011102 011	<u> </u>
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